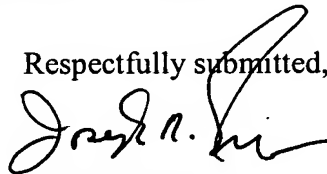


**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-12, 41-46, 63, 66, 77, and 82-83 are pending in this application and presented for examination. Claim 13-40, 47-62, 64-65, 67-76 and 78-81 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph R. Snyder", is written over the typed name.

Joseph R. Snyder  
Reg. No. 39,381

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